

Andrew Jackson to George Barstow, February 19, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO GEORGE BARSTOW.

Hermitage, February 19, 1844.

Dear sir, Under cover from my friend the Hon^{ble} Frank Peirce of NewHampshire of date the 2nd instant, I have received your letter of the 20th of october 1843, in which you state "that in your History of NewHampshire you have asserted the fact that the words, beauty and Booty , were used as watchwords by the British troops at Neworleans etc. etc. That this has been contradicted by one of the Federal papers, and you appeal to me for my word for the truth of this statement etc." To which reply, that on the 8th of Janry 1815 there was found amonghs the papers of a british sergeant that fell near our line of the left collum of the British army commanded by Genl Hine, and led by Col Rainey against my right, an orderly Book containing the words Beauty and Booty , 1 as the watchwords for the 8th of January 1815. These words from being found in the seergeants orderly Book were believed by all to have been the watch words of that day. The British officers deny that such was given by the commander in chief, but it would have been an awful responsibility for a subordinate officer to have done this without the approbation of his superior. I, had no hesitation from the fact disclosed to believe it, and my whole army, beleived beauty and booty were the British watchwords for that day. I am greatly debilitated—write with great dificulty and am Dear sir very respectfully yr. mo. obdt. servt.

1 See vol. V., p. 129 and note.